

Georgia Department of Community Health Stimulus Funding:

COBRA Premium Subsidy

Frequently Asked Questions

When will former employees covered under the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) receive information about the COBRA Premium Reduction?

Like all employers, SHBP has been waiting for guidelines from the Department of Labor (DOL). These guidelines were published on March 19, 2009 and SHBP is currently preparing the COBRA notices. Prior to the notification deadline of April 17, SHBP will send the COBRA notices with instructions to all former employees whose employment and SHBP medical benefits have ended since September 1, 2008. SHBP will continue sending the notices to employees who were involuntarily terminated through December 31, 2009.

What if I am not an individual that was covered under SHBP; am I still eligible for the COBRA subsidy?

If you are not a former employee covered under SHBP, visit www.DOL.gov/COBRA or call: 1-866-444-3272 for more information.

When will the COBRA Premium Reduction be effective?

For SHBP COBRA participants, the subsidy is effective on March 1, 2009. Credits for future months of COBRA coverage retroactive to March 1, 2009 will be provided to any subsidy-eligible COBRA participant who paid the full COBRA premium after March 1, 2009. At this time SHBP does not have a date when the new, lower COBRA bills will be ready.

If I get a COBRA notice, does that mean I am eligible for the COBRA Premium Reduction?

Not necessarily. The rules require that plans send the notices to former employees who might be eligible for the subsidy. There are still requirements that must be met, such as the termination from employment must have been Involuntary, not for Gross Misconduct, and you must not be eligible for coverage under another employer-sponsored health plan or Medicare.

Does the COBRA Premium Reduction apply to other coverage in addition to my medical benefits?

Yes, dental and vision benefits also qualify for the COBRA Premium Reduction. Eligible individuals should receive COBRA Premium Reduction information for dental and vision benefits from the employer or agency who administers those benefits.

Where can I go for more information on the COBRA Premium Reduction?

General information on the COBRA Premium Reduction can be found at: www.DOL.gov/COBRA or by calling: 1-866-444-3272